Deliberations of the Fifth World Environment Congress

764. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the deliberations of the Fifth World Environment Congress held in New Delhi in December, 1996;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made therein, for containing and curbing pollution in Indian cities and the rivers; and

(c) whether the Congress observed that over a hundred of cities on the banks of Ganga are without sewage treatment plants; if so, the steps contemplated to provide sewage treatment arrangements for such cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No information is available with Govemment on the Fifth World Environment Congress held in New Delhi in December 1996.

(b) & (c) Does not arise. However, under the Ganga Action PIan and the National River Conservation PIan pollution abatement works, which include sewage treatment arrangements in most of the towns, have been sanctioned for 74 towns along the banks of the Ganga.

Introduction of Electric Rickshaws to Contain Urban Pollution

765. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "An electrifying solution to Urban Pollution" appearing in tne ' Economic Times (Mumbai edition) dated 23rd December, 1996; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to encourage introduction of electric rickshaws?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Govemment has a policy for encouraging the use of cleaner vehicles. A number of fiscal incentives are being provided for operation and promotion of electric vehicles.

"Expert Panel to Ascertain Causes of Deforestation in the North-East"

766. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govemment have constituted an expert panel to ascertain causes of loss of forest cover in the North-East; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Central Govemment has constituted an Expert Committee for an in-depth analysis of issues impacting on conservation of forest resources in the North Eastern States under the Chairmanship of Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt, of India, Shri R. Rajamani. The other members of the Committee are: (1) Shri M.F. Ahmed, Former Inspector General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, (2) Prof. B. Pakim, Vice-Chancellor, North-East Hill University, Shillong, (3) Secretary, North-East Council, Shillong, (4) Joint Secretary (North-East), Ministry of Home Affairs, *&* (5) Shri A. K. Mukherjee, Former Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment & Forests. Shri S.C. Dey, Additional Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment & Forests is the Member